"He's setting it up for the old-timers style, I think," joked Crow.

"No, really, we kind of talked about, at this point, I don't know how to drive one of these (Sportsman cars). So we figure if we let him set it up, it'll be right. With the experience he has, it has to be right. And I'll just learn how to drive it that way."

Crow, the Hobby Stock rookie of the year in 1988, has raced just four races all season after moving to the Sportsman class from Street Stock last year.

"My goal is to go (to the NASCAR West) tour and I wanted to move up quick," Crow said. "I had a good year last year (he finished eighth) in street stock and I just didn't see the purpose in going back. I mean, I had the track record, I won main events ... With this (racing Sportsman), literally I'm racing against guys I grew up watching."

The scenario is all the more fantastic considering Crow opened the season with a different car and a different owner.

Crow bought the No. 93 Sportsman car from Canyon Country's Steve Burdett, who was driving Sportsman car No. 38 (owned by Richard Johnson), last season. He later sold it to Jim and Dixie Thorne, but still drove it in the car's initial race of the season, July 7.

Despite a fifth-place finish, Burdett quit Johnson's team and hooked up with the Thornes, who reunited him with car No. 93, a car built by Steve's father 12 years earlier. Johnson then hired Crow to drive No. 38.

"His dad built that car and there's a lot of sentimental value in that car," Johnson said. "He's never been the same since he sold that car last year, I sincerely believe that. To me, Steve needed to be in his old car. He was always trying to set this one up like the old one.

"It just didn't work out. I mean we're still friends. It was just that as an owner and a driver we didn't click."

Burdett added, "I just felt too much pressure. We had this brand new, top-of-the-line car, and I felt like everybody was watching everything I did."

See MOTOR, page 17